

## *~Hearts Apart~*



*A Family Support newsletter for friends & family of  
activated members.*

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2  
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MSgt



I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you; as the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 440th Airlift Wing. I am responsible for ALL issues that affect health, welfare, morale, and quality of life issues for ALL of the enlisted force. What this means to you is that if you or your family have issues, concerns, or anything that can not be resolved through the normal channels, you can come to see me or call me; I am here to serve you and your families, to ensure you have answers to your questions and your needs are addressed.

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### **Accredited Financial Counselor<sup>SM</sup> Program**

The Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education® (AFCPE®) in partnership with the National Military Family Association (NMFA) and the NASD Investor Education Foundation, is pleased to announce the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program. The purpose of this program is to provide 200 military spouses with the education necessary for entry into the financial counseling field. The fellowship covers the educational costs of the certificate program, which includes registration, tuition and study materials for the two courses and two attempts at each of the two examinations. Upon successful completion of the educational, testing and experience requirements, the participant will be awarded the Accredited Financial Counselor designation from AFCPE.

Applicants to the Military Spouse Fellowship for the AFCEP must be current or surviving spouses of active duty or retired Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army or Air National Guard or reserve component service members.

To apply for the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program, log onto [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org) and click on the Military Spouse Fellowship for the Accredited Financial Counselor Program link. Applications will only be accepted on-

line. It is recommended that all who wish to apply for the fellowship read the **Frequently Asked Questions** prior to completing the application.

This exceptional opportunity is limited to 200 fellowship recipients; therefore, it is important to apply on-line before the closing date of **February 14, 2006**. Fellowship recipients will be selected by a panel of judges and notified by **March 15, 2006**.

SOURCE: [www.nmfa.org](http://www.nmfa.org)

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## **AFRC Helps BRAC Affected Personnel**

Robins Air Force Base, Ga. - Air Force Reserve Command has created a new program to help reservists and civilians navigate BRAC changes. A web-based guide titled "A BRAC Guide for Civilian and Military Personnel Issues" outlines and explains the programs.

The guide contains vital information for displaced members, such as an overview and explanation of the clearing houses. Members can access the guide from a military computer at <https://wwwmil.afrc.af.mil/hq/dp/brac>.

Once affected members are identified by BRAC, those people will be given an assignment availability code. This code will allow the command to track impacted members and control the timeliness of critical losses at closed or drawn-down sites.

Source: 2nd Lt Dustin Doyle  
Air Force Reserve Command, Public Affairs

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## **Filing Taxes When a Service Member is Deployed**

Filing state and federal income taxes may be the last thing you want to deal with when a family member has been deployed. But, as overwhelming as it may seem, filing your tax return should not be difficult. The IRS has recognized that service members and their families often face special circumstances, and has put in place ways to make this annual obligation less of a burden. If you are a service member or are filing on behalf of one, there are a few things you should know before you get started.

***File returns in your permanent home state.*** If the spouse works outside of their home of record, in most cases they will have to file a state tax return for the state in which they are employed.

***Be sure to have a power of attorney if filing for a deployed service member.*** Attach a copy of your power of attorney to your tax return or you may use IRS Form 2848. The form can be found at <http://www.irs.gov>. Also on the IRS web site you will want to locate the Armed Forces Tax Guide #3.

The IRS extends filing deadlines for members of the Armed Forces for the following reasons:

*You or your spouse are serving in a combat zone or indirect support of those in the combat zone and receive hostile fire or imminent danger pay.*

Your deadline for filing your taxes is 180 days after your last day in the combat zone or hazardous duty area.

*You or your spouse is hospitalized outside of the United States as a result of injuries suffered in a combat zone or hazardous duty area.* The deadline is 180 days after discharge from the hospital. The extension does not apply to the spouse if they are hospitalized and not a service member.

### GETTING HELP WITH YOUR TAXES

Service members and their families can get help at many locations through the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program (VITA). Check with your legal center to see if this service is available. If you decide to see a private tax preparer, make sure he or she is familiar with the IRS Armed Forces' Tax Guide and has experience filing returns for service members and their dependents. When prepare to file, among other things you will need:

- Military ID and/or cards for family members
- All W-2 and 1099 forms
- Social Security cards for all family members
- Deductions and credit information
- Bank account and routing numbers
- Receipts for child care expenses
- Last year's tax return, if available
- Special power of attorney authorizing you to do business on behalf of the deployed service member.

SOURCE: [militaryonesource.com](http://militaryonesource.com)

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## NEWS AND NOTES

**College Street Main Gate** is now open. The Howell Street West Gate will be used only on UTA's for entry in the morning and egress in the evening.

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**TurboTax** is available at no cost to service members by the Department of Defense at the Military OneSource website <http://www.militaryonesource.com>. To access your 2005 W2 online, visit myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

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**Anheuser-Busch launched "Here's to the Heroes"** in February 2005 to acknowledge the service of military men and women and the sacrifices made by their families. The program provides a single day's free admission to any one SeaWorld or Busch Gardens park, Sesame Place, Adventure Island or Water Country USA for the service member and as many as three of his or her direct dependents. He or she need only register, either online at [www.herosalute.com](http://www.herosalute.com) or in the entrance plaza of a participating park, and show a Defense Department photo ID.

H.R. 4200 created a new education benefit that we call the **"Reserve Educational Assistance Program" (REAP)** or Chapter 1607. This new program makes certain individuals who were activated after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

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**NOTE: The public website for General Mitchell Air Reserve Station is at**  
<http://www.afrc.af.mil/440AW/>

**Family Support Center: (414) 482-5424 or 1-800-224-2744**